

We need to maximise

$$\ln \Omega + \lambda_1 N + \lambda_2 U$$

In order to do so, we need to differentiate this. Start with

$$N = n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_i + \dots$$

Differentiating with respect to n_i gives

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial n_i} = 1.$$

Next, we differentiate

$$U = n_1 \epsilon_1 + n_2 \epsilon_2 + \dots + n_i \epsilon_i + \dots$$

This gives

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial n_i} = \epsilon_i.$$

Next we need to differentiate $\ln \Omega$.

These are what we have obtained:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial N}{\partial n_i} &= 1 \\ \frac{\partial U}{\partial n_i} &= \epsilon_i \\ \frac{\partial \ln \Omega}{\partial n_i} &= -\ln n_i \end{aligned}$$

To maximise the Lagrange function $\ln \Omega + \lambda_1 N + \lambda_2 U$, we need to differentiate this and set the derivative to zero:

$$\frac{\partial \ln \Omega}{\partial n_i} + \lambda_1 \frac{\partial N}{\partial n_i} + \lambda_2 \frac{\partial U}{\partial n_i} = 0$$

Substituting the above results, we get:

$$\ln n_i + \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \epsilon_i = 0$$

Start with the formula

$$\Omega = \frac{N!}{n_1! n_2! \dots n_i! \dots}$$

Then take the logarithm,

$$\ln \Omega = \ln N! - \ln n_1! - \ln n_2! - \dots - \ln n_i! - \dots$$

and apply Stirling's theorem:

$$\ln \Omega = N \ln N - N - (n_1 \ln n_1 - n_1) - (n_2 \ln n_2 - n_2) - \dots - (n_i \ln n_i - n_i) - \dots$$

Differentiating, we get

$$\frac{\partial \ln \Omega}{\partial n_i} = -\ln n_i$$

Note that in this differentiation, N in Ω is to be treated as a constant. This is unlike in $\lambda_1 N$ where it is a function of n_i . The reason is because Ω is up to us to define, and it is sufficient to vary n_i .